



THE

KNIGHT



September-October 2003

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ANA CONVENTION & LNA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

What a week! We Lithuanians were well represented at the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money held in Baltimore, MD and which ran from July 30 to August 3, 2003. In this issue of *The Knight* we feature the highlights of a week of reunions, culminating with our meeting of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association held on Saturday, August 2.

Baltimore is a great convention city and there were plenty of things to see and do the whole week. The highlight for the general numismatists, of course, was the display of all 5 minted 1913 liberty head nickels, including the re-discovery of the "lost" nickel. This exhibit brought in thousands of people to the Convention Hall and was broadcast on national newscasts. Just down the row from the famed 5 nickels, face value 25¢ (O.K., times \$1.5 million each), in the Foreign Paper Money section was another display worth noting: A complete set of Lithuanian Pre-World War II banknotes (Pick 1-28). This display by LNA co-founder and editor of *The Knight*, Frank Passic, placed First in the Foreign Paper Money division and it included some seldom-seen Lithuanian banknotes, such as the 1922 50 and 100 litų notes, and the prized 1938 10 litų note.

On the bourse floor, LNA member and dealer Tony Tumonis showed us a few items in his private



Some of the attenders of our August 2, 2003 LNA meeting. Front row (L-R) Aleksandras Radžius, Vincent Alones, Agnes Alones, Peter Shulin, Pauline (Kulikauskas) Passic. Back row: Anthony Tumonis, Robert J. Douchis, Frank Passic, Henry Gaidis, Len Harsel. Alex, Bob and Frank are wearing their Order of Lithuanian Numismatics decoration and the Medal of the Order of Lithuanian Numismatics can be seen on Vince Alones.

Lithuanian collection, including some 1925 proof-record 1-2-5 litai coins, and a proof 1916 1 Ost-Kopek coin, all of which have been professionally graded and slabbed.

Lithuanian material was generally scarce, except for one well-known medieval dealer, Andy Singer, who offered his selection of medieval Lithuanian coins. A dealer of "oddity" items offered an uncut sheet (40 notes) of the 1994 1 litas banknotes. We also saw a Petras Rimša Gediminas medal reproduction.

Numerous mints from around the world were present to display and sell their wares. Unfortunately, the Mint of Lithuania was not there.

In the numismatic political realm, we welcomed the election of Gary E. Lewis as the new ANA president. He was installed on Saturday, August 2. We met Gary several years ago at the ANA Summer School of Numismatics. While there, Gary obtained a colorful Lithuanian basketball Olympic "Grateful Dead" T-shirt for his son. Why his interest in Lithuania? He is of special interest to Lithuanian collectors since his wife Suzanne (SHIMKUS) is of

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Lithuanian descent. She is a native of the Brooklyn, New York Lithuanian community where she was born and raised.

Baltimore has an historic Lithuanian community that dates to the 1880's. In fact, several blocks northwest of the Baltimore Convention Center sits Lithuanian Hall with a "Little Lithuania" park just across the street. The area around Lithuanian Hall was a thriving Lithuanian neighborhood



GARY LEWIS

New ANA President

for over a century. We invited Gary and Suzanne to Lithuanian Hall for its traditional Friday night Lithuanian dinner, where Lithuanian sausage, kuldūnai (Lithuanian ravioli), sauerkraut soup, stuffed cabbage and cold beet soup are some of the dishes offered.

Henry Gaidis, whose parents were among the founders of Lithuanian Hall, gave Gary and Suzanne a tour of the facilities. The Hall had hosted other notables such as President Antanas Smetona, Petras Rimša, and others. On the top floor is a small Lithuanian Museum which pleased all of us with its displays.

Saturday, complementary copies of *The Knight* were distributed to numismatic friends throughout the ANA Convention



ABOVE: The unissued Pick-38 1938 10 litų banknote was featured in a display of a complete set of pre-World War II Lithuanian banknotes.

and we were able to sign up members to our club. We were given two Lithuanian tokens during the course of Convention. The first was an aluminum-cased 1999 Lincoln "Lucky Penny" issued by John P. Zelonas, Jr. of Boston. The obverse features a 4-clover and a horseshoe with text reading, "Keep me and ne go broke. I bring good luck."

the reverse is the issuer's information: "John P. Zelonas, Jr. Best wishes for the next millennium. Boston, MA 02110. (617) 542-0424." The second token was bronze, 27 mm. diameter, 2 mm. thick issued by long-time world banknote dealer of Lithuanian heritage James Warmus. James began collecting in 1953, and began his career as a dealer at the Albion, Michigan



AT LITHUANIAN HALL Friday August 1, 2003. Left to right: Robert J. Douchis, Hank Gaidis, Pauline (Kulikauskas) Passic, Alex Radžius, Gary Lewis, Suzanne (Shimkus) Lewis, Tony Tumonis, Frank Passic.



Hank Gaidis (far right) shows new ANA president Gary Lewis (left); and ANA representative Tony Tumonis (center) the military section of the Lithuanian Museum at Lithuanian Hall in Baltimore.



ABOVE:

Encased Lincoln cent "Lucky Penny" issued by John Zelonis, Jr. of Boston features his information on the reverse side.

Coin Club Show in 1961. The year 2003 marks his 50th year in numismatics and with this medal James commemorates his anniversary. The obverse features a Liberty Head design similar to a \$10 gold piece. On the reverse is the text. "World Banknotes, JAMES WARMUS, 50 Years in Numismatics 1953-2003, P.O. Box 860, Palm Beach, FL 34991. planetnotes@aol.com".

The highlight of the week, of course, was our Lithuanian Numismatic Association meeting on Saturday, August 2. LNA Director Alex Radžius organised and moderated the meeting. Alex also served as a gracious host to Frank Passic, Editor of *The Knight*, and his mother Pauline, helping greatly with logistics during our week in Baltimore.

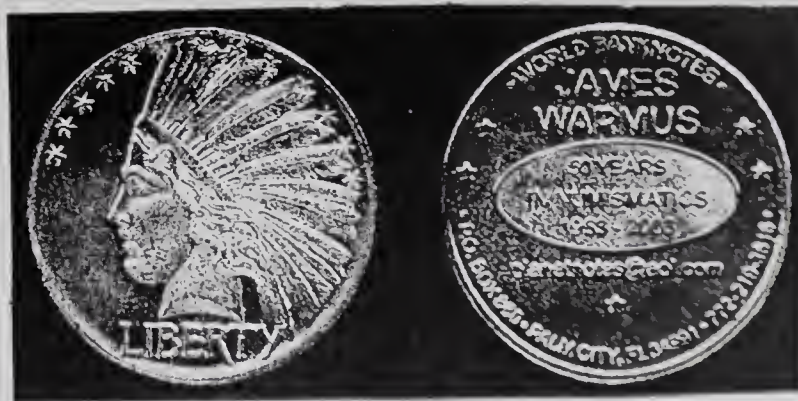
There were over a dozen persons attending our meeting, including the new incoming ANA president Gary Lewis and his wife Suzanne (Shimkus) Lewis. Also making an appearance was outgoing ANA president John Wilson, who had been an enthusiastic supporter of the LNA for many years and who fortunately has been re-elected to the ANA board following the expiration of his presidential term.

After opening remarks by the Director, Alex Radžius, Frank Passic, Editor of *The Knight*, presented a history of the LNA. Reprints of the 100th issue of *The Knight* were available for anyone wishing more information about our club. Next, Alex gave a Special Director's Report acknowledging individuals who over the past 25 years made extraordinary contributions to the LNA and to Lithuanian numismatics. To everyone's surprise he unveiled the Order of Lithuanian Numismatics and the Medal of the Order of Lithuanian Numismatics with which he recognized these individuals of note.

The Medal of the Order of Lithuanian Numismatics was awarded to Stanley Balzekas, Jr., President of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture for providing spiritual home and moral support for the LNA and for the exquisite Numismatic Department at his Museum. Ignas Ropininkas of Kaunas, Lithuania was also awarded the Medal of the Order of Lithuanian Numismatics for his long standing and diligent contributions from the Lithuanian press, which informing us of up-to-the-minute numismatic developments in Lithuania. The Medal was also awarded to Vincent W. Alones for keeping Lithuanian numismatics viable for decades in ANA circles and for co-authoring

BELOW:

50 years in numismatics medal by James Warmus.



4. ANA CONVENTION & LNA MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

articles in *The Knight* on orders and decorations. And Henry Gaidis was awarded the Medal for displaying his numismatic collections twice annually among the Lithuanian and American non-numismatic public for the last 20 years and for his word with Vince Alones on Lithuanian decorations.

The Order of Lithuanian Numismatics, 3rd Class/red ribbon, was awarded to Robert Douchis for important service to Lithuanian numismatics by co-founding the LNA, serving as its Director for the first 17 years and for financing some Lithuanian numismatic reference books.

The Order of Lithuanian Numismatics, 2nd Class/maroon ribbon, was awarded to Aleksandras Radžius for innovative and original service to Lithuanian numismatics by expanding research of medieval Lithuanian coins to include western concurrent cultures, thereby placing medieval Lithuanian numismatic research on a more comprehensive foundation.

The Order of Lithuanian Numismatics, 1st Class/yellow ribbon, was awarded to Frank Passic for critical and indispensable service to Lithuanian numismatics in conceiving of the LNA, founding it, being the driving force of the LNA and editing its newsletter *The Knight* for all its 25 years of existence thereby bringing Lithuanian numismatics before the English speaking numismatic public.

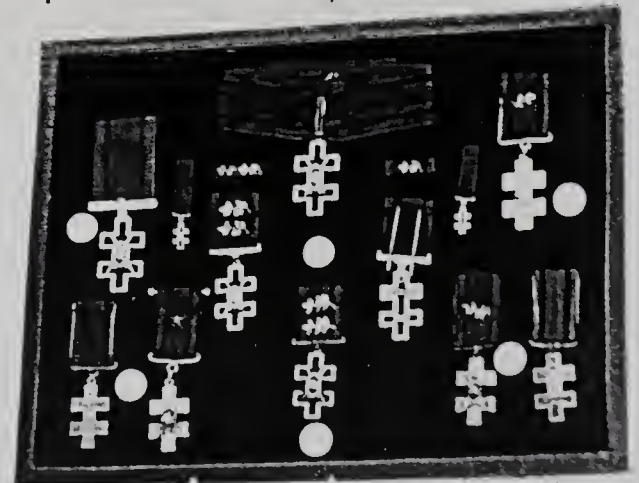
The decorations were designed and financed by Aleksandras Radžius and were a special project of his for the past year. On the obverse is an equestrian based on early Lithuanian coins depictions. On the reverse in pseudo-runic lettering is: "LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION". On the bottom is "25" for our 25th anniversary and in the center is: "Už Nuopelnus, 2003" meaning "For Achievements/Merit, 2003". The brass medals were minted on special order by the Mint of Lithuania and arrived in Baltimore only two days before they were to be awarded. We are currently



Hank Gaidis displays the Order of the Cross of Vytis, 1st Class and breast star in their original case.

working on designs for a certificate to accompany the decorations. If anyone would like to help us on this project, especially calligraphy and artwork, please contact our Director, Alex Radžius.

While the decorations were being awarded, Vince Alones, with his lovely wife Agnes, arrived a half hour late due to traffic congestions between New York and Baltimore. Upon their appearance at the doorway, we gave them a standing ovation honoring a man who had been for decades, and continues to be, a patriarch not only in American, but also



ABOVE: Display of numerous types of the Cross of Vytis, in the collection of Hank Gaidis.

LEFT: Vincent Alones with his display of the Medal of the Army Pioneers.

in Lithuanian numismatic circles.

After the Director's Special Report and award presentations, Vince Alones gave a presentation on the very rare Lithuanian Army Pioneer Medal designed by Juozas Zikaras and intended for Lithuanian servicemen who applied their military training under the Czar or the Kaiser, as well as their experiences during The Great War, in Lithuania's War of Independence following World War I.

Next, Aleksandras Radžius gave a presentation "On Determining the Denominations of Medieval Lithuanian Coins". He noted that denomination determinations of medieval Lithuanian coins is problematic and suggested a methodology for overcoming some of the difficulties. His main points were: 1) reconstructing the coin to the size it what would have been if it were minted on a planchet the full face-size of the die, that is, reversing the effects of clipping, breakage, and/or deterioration in the soil, 2) calculating what the weight would have been of the restored coin, and 3) comparing this reconstructed weight with a contemporary full measure standard such as a contemporary Prague groschen. He also notes that the weight unit 'grams' is of relatively recent origin and does not convey as much information as does the older natural unit 'grains'. As a result, he suggested that the weights of medieval Lithuanian coins be also given in grains, as is being done by the English speaking numismatic and shooting communities.

Hank Gaidis spoke next about the Cross of Vytis noting that each was earned with blood, either that of the recipient or that of his adversaries. He graced us with his exquisite collection of all the known types of Cross of Vytis decorations.

For those who are interested, videotape copies of the LNA meeting are available from our Director, Al Radžius for \$25 each postpaid. Order your copy today!

THE NUMISMATIST REVIEWS LITHUANIAN BANKNOTE BOOK

The masterpiece book, "Lietuvos Banknotai" published in 2002 by the Bank of Lithuania, was reviewed in *The Numismatist*, the magazine of the American Numismatic Association, August 2003 issue, pp. 85-86. There also was a photo of the cover on pg. 12 of the contents, alerting the collecting community about our hobby specialty! The book has received an ANA library catalog number of UF40.G3, "and is a welcome acquisition for the ANA Library," states the review.

The main review contains a photo of the cover superimposed with a Lithuanian 500 litų note (*Continued on page 9...*)



Obverse and reverse of the Order of Lithuanian Numismatics. Pearled circle is 55 mm. diameter and is suspended from a 34 mm. wide, 79 cm. long neck ribbon. The Medal of the Order of Lithuanian Numismatics has a pearled circle diameter of 35 mm. and is suspended from a 35 mm. wide, 40 mm. long blue and white ribbon.



Frank Passic presents Stanley Balzekas, Jr. with his Medal of the Order of Lithuanian Numismatics, in the Balzekas Museum Numismatic Room.

GOLD/SILVER 200 LITU MINDAUGAS COIN ISSUED ON JUNE 25

In what has got to be one of the most beautiful and creative coins struck by the Mint of Lithuania, the Bank of Lithuania released a special bi-metallic .925 silver and .900 gold 200 litų proof coin to commemorate the 750th anniversary of the crowning of King Mindaugas on June 25.

The coin has a diameter of 27 mm, with a total weight of 15 grams (the 17 mm. diameter gold core weighs 7.9 grams). Only 2,000 pieces were struck, and these were quickly snapped up by collectors and speculators the day they went on sale. Issue price was 600 litai, or 173.78 Euros. Each coin came in a red presentation case and box labeled "Lietuvos Bankas." Inside with the coin is a small certificate of authenticity card giving basic information and a serial number. The coin is encased in a round hard plastic holder.



This is the first time that gold and silver have been used for a bi-metallic coin anywhere in the world, which is a "first" for Lithuania in the annals of world numismatics.

The coin was designed by artist Petras Repšys. In the gold core, the obverse features a very stylized mounted knight emblem as would have been used in Mindaugas' day, which is charging to the viewer's right. The rider is dressed in chain mail and his holding a sword in his right hand. He is shown holding the back side of a shield which does not have the double-barred cross. That was added later as the horse/rider emblem evolved over time into what became the Vytis emblem of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Below the horse is the date in Roman numerals, "MMIII," and below that the "LMK" in a circle mintmark of the Lithuanian Mint (Lietuvos Moneta Kalykla). A



MINDAUGAS AS THE FOUNDER OF THE LITHUANIAN STATE

Mindaugas was the first ruler of Lithuania. One may think that this alone is enough to consider Mindaugas as one of the most outstanding personalities to be honoured for his deeds. He made the greatest creation in the history of early Lithuania, a state that gave the Lithuanian nation an opportunity to survive and later adopt Western civilisation. When did this happen? The belief shared today is that the Lithuanian state was established ca. 1240, but Mindaugas needed time to strengthen his power. The opposition consisted, first of all, of the representatives of his own family who not only sought the aid of Samogitians but also foreigners – Volhynia and the Livonian Order.

Mindaugas used both military campaigns and diplomacy to overcome this problem: he took advantage of internal discord in the Livonian Order and enlisted the support of Andrew of Stirland, Master of the Order. It was owing to him that Mindaugas was christened in 1251 and soon was crowned as king. Therefore, the key goal that the baptism was to help achieve was the crown. This was accomplished on 6 July 1253.

The day of Mindaugas' coronation is the most honourable date in our calendar, for he was the first and last King of Lithuania. However, the deed was even more significant from another point of view. In a way it completed the formation of the state, as Lithuania was then recognised by the surrounding world of the time. This is why that date is as great a holiday today as February 16 or March 11.

There are other reasons to maintain that Mindaugas was not just a man acting under the influence of circumstances but rather a maker of history. He had to accomplish more than the rulers of other, earlier established Central European countries. Bohemia became a kingdom in the 12th century, while a separate archbishopric was established there as late as in the 14th century; Poland became a kingdom and established an archbishopric at the junction between the 10th and 11th centuries, yet, like Bohemia, it became the vassal of the Holy Roman Emperor, not the Pope. Mindaugas, on the other hand, who became king with the help of the

Livonian Order, itself vassal of the Holy Roman Empire, got to be the vassal of the Pope, not the Emperor, and was immediately granted the right to an independent bishopric directly subordinate to the Pope. Moreover, after several years he got the king's crown

ABOVE: History of Mindaugas from coin promotional brochure.

RIGHT: The Crowning of King Mindaugas painting by Adomas Varnas (1952-53).

for his dynasty when the Pope allowed for his son to be crowned as well. All of this was the result of Mindaugas' diplomacy. He made a shrewd choice of an assistant, Christian, a priest and brother of the Livonian Order, who enlightened him about the organisation of the Catholic Church and the Pope's relations with European rulers, especially the Emperor. Through his envoy Parbus Mindaugas presented to the Pope his own terms that were more beneficial to Lithuania than to the

diamond-shaped pattern containing a crosslet in each forms the background of the gold core.

The outer silver portion contains the word "LIETUVA" on the top, and "200 LITŲ" on the bottom.

The reverse gold core features crowned Mindaugas on his throne, holding the sceptre in his right hand, and the orb (a sphere surmounted by a cross symbolizing kingly power and justice) in his left hand. This design is based upon the image found on the known seal of the Lithuanian king. The same diamond-shaped pattern containing a crosslet in each agains forms the background of the gold core.

The outer silver core contains the date at the bottom, "1253," the year Mindaugas was crowned King of Lithuania. The legend simply states, "MINDAUGO KARŪNAVIMAS," which translates, "Crowning of Mindaugas."

The edge of the coin is inscribed: "* LIETUVOS KARALYSTĖ 1253," which translates, "Kingdom of Lithuania 1253."

Because of its historical and numismatic significance, low mintage and high demand, we expect this coin to become one of the "keys" to any contemporary Lithuanian coin collection.

VILNIUS 10 LITŲ COIN SALES ENDED SEPTEMBER 29

Sales of the 1998 75% copper 25% nickel 10 litų coin featuring Vilnius were ended on September 29 by the Bank of Lithuania, according to their 5-year sales limit policy. 7,500 coins were originally struck; those not sold will be melted. The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture was able to purchase a limited supply before the deadline and is now offering them in their Gift Shop. (773) 582-6500.

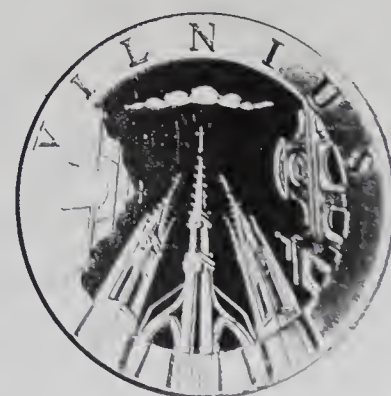


Livonian Order, the intermediary of christening and coronation. To the surprise of Livonian envoys, the Pope satisfied the request of Parbus, i.e. Mindaugas. Thus Mindaugas claimed the first international victory for Lithuanian diplomacy by managing to avoid political links with the Holy Roman Empire. This important diplomatic achievement showed that Mindaugas was a talented and creative personality who was capable of steering the course of events towards a desired goal. Even his enemies called him wise.

That is the role of Mindaugas in the history of Lithuania, yet there is also a European dimension to him. During the Early Middle Ages the Popes kindly accepted baptism of countries; from the 9th to the 11th centuries European, primarily Central and North European, countries were allowed to take baptism independently and become the vassals of the Pope or the Emperor. However, this changed in the 12th-13th centuries, when Europe entered the epoch of crusades (the seventh crusade took place during Mindaugas' rule, while the eighth, and the last one, soon after his death). During that period the right of pagan countries and nations for independent baptism was no longer recognised. Baptism was only granted following their conquest. This is why the Slavs of Pomerania, Finns, Estonians and Latvians were conquered, Prussians, Yotvingians, Curonians and Semigalians were wiped out, while Mindaugas not only managed to create a state but also join, while only temporarily, the system of European countries. In the Baltic region, that could be called the Latest Medieval Europe, Mindaugas was the only one to turn his nation into a subject of history. During the later history of Lithuania it was only Vytautas who could claim a similar European role due to the victory in the Battle of Grünwald that stopped the German *Drang nach Osten*, and the makers of Lithuanian independence of 1990 who contributed to the collapse of the Soviet empire.

Mindaugas suffered a tragic fate: he was murdered in 1263. Yet it was on the foundations of the state established by him that an empire, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, emerged in the 14th century, stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Consequently, traces of Mindaugas' achievements survived until the very destruction of the state in 1795 and, in a sense, even until the restoration of the state of Lithuania in 1918 and 1990. But today the most significant mark of his deeds and ideas is the ability to perceive Lithuania in Europe and to take it there.

Prof. dr. Alfredas Bumblauskas



A new medal for King Mindaugas

A new medal commemorating papal recognition of Mindaugas's kingship was announced at a news conference held on July 6, 2003. The medal was designed by Juozas Kalinauskas and is antiqued bronze.

The obverse depicts a profile of King Mindaugas (reign: about 1230 to 1264). Juozas Kalinauskas said he depicted Mindaugas as being strict and stern based on his interpretation Mindaugas's personality and his effect on Lithuanian history as recorded in surviving records. The legend reads MINDAUGAS LIETUVOS KARALIUS (Mindaugas, King of Lithuania). At the bottom is the number 750 marking the 750th anniversary of Mindaugas's coronation with a papal crown in 1253.

The reverse shows Bishop Henry Heidenreich of Kulm placing the papal crown on King Mindaugas's head. Behind Mindaugas is Morta, his Queen. In attendance are three Lithuanian Dukes and the Grandmaster of the Livonian Order, Andrew of Stirland, who conferred the crown in the pope's name. Also depicted in attendance are three bishops of the Western Rite. The legend above the scene reads MINDAUGO IR MORTOS VAINIKAVIMAS (The coronation of Mindaugas and Morta).

The events leading up to the coronation were full of political intrigue. The Germans did everything in their power to make the Bishop of the Western Rite in Lithuania a German vassal. But King Mindaugas envoys to

Aleksandras Radžius the papal court prevailed and the Lithuanian Bishop was made responsible only to the Pope. Unfortunately, we do not know what the Eastern Christian ecclesiastic structure was or which sects were functioning in the Lithuanian Kingdom at the time.



Not only Mindaugas's kingship receive papal recognition in 1253, King Daniel of Galicia (reign: about 1235 to 1264) was awarded it also in the same year. This was the era when the Mongols were pouring out of Asia into Europe. By extending papal recognition to the kingships of Mindaugas and Daniel, the pope was attempting to add these two kingdoms to the defensive

potential against the Tartars. King Mindaugas, for his part, was seeking papal recognition in an attempt to stop German aggression against his kingdom.

The striking similarities between the papal crownings of Mindaugas and Daniels should be of great interest to Lithuanians, especially for the purpose of comparing Western vs. Eastern Christian influences in each kingdom, subsequent sovereignty of each kingdom and retention of the title 'kingdom'.

Sources

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Kauno Diena, July 7, 2003.

Simas Sužiedelis. Mindaugas. In: Jouzas Šapoka (ed.) Enciclopedia Lituanica, 3:538-543. South Boston, 1973.

Vanda Sruogienė. Andrius iš Stirlando. In: Jouzas Šapoka (ed.) Lietuvių Enciklopedija, 1:167-168. South Boston, 1953.

Zenonas Ivanskis. Danielius. In: Jouzas Šapoka (ed.) Lietuvių Enciklopedija, 4:280-281. South Boston, 1954.

Zenonas Ivanskis. Henrikas. In: Jouzas Šapoka (ed.) Lietuvių Enciklopedija, 8:200. South Boston, 1956.

VILNIUS CATHEDRAL FEATURED ON NEW 50 LITŲ COIN

The Bank of Lithuania issued a special .925 silver proof 50 Litų coin on July 30, 2003 featuring the Cathedral of Vilnius. This coin was part of the "Historical and Architectural Monuments of Lithuania" series of coins. The coin is 38.61 mm. in diameter and weighs 28.28 grams. The mintage was only 1,500 pieces which makes it among the scarcest of the modern commemorative series which usually have at least 2,000 minted.

The coin was designed by designer Vladas Polikša and sculptor Rytas Jonas Belevičius, and minted at the Mint of Lithuania. The original issue price was 90 litai.



(Continued on page 10...)

THE NUMISMATIST REVIEWS LITHUANIAN BANKNOTE BOOK

(Continued from page 5...)



of 1924, and a 1916 100 Ost-Rubel note in the background.

After giving a very complimentary review of the book, the reviewer, Cathy L. Clark concludes, "This beautiful book contains page after page of high-quality illustrations, depicting not only the notes themselves, but the design process. The 244-page 12 x 12 inch hardcover book, with attached ribbon bookmark, could grace any coffee table, but it is a must for a serious numismatic library."

For more information about the ANA Library, visit the www.money.org website, or contact them at: library@money.org.

WANT/FOR SALE ADS

WANTED: Picture postcards of places in Lithuania (including Klaipėda/Memel), pre-1941 only. J. R. Greene, 26 Bearsden Road, Athol, MA 01331.

WANTED: Year 2000 100 Litų Vytautas gold coin. For Sale or trade: Two 10 litas gold coins issued in 1999 as part of the "smallest gold coins of the world" series. e-mail me at: kenh@icoste.org, or write to me at: Kenneth Humphreys, 1168 Hidden Lake Drive, Granite Falls, NC 28630.

WANTED: Any Lithuanian gold coins, or medieval Lithuanian coins. Ed Baleiša, 200 Burnhamthorpe Road E., Suite #606, Miss., Ontario L5A 4L4 CANADA.

FOR SALE: We are looking for collectors interested in medieval Lithuanian (also Polish & East Prussian) coins. We have contacts with many collectors and have proposals to buy, sell, and trade from private collections. Sincerely, Aleksandras Potasovas: palexa@one.lt, and Gytis Akstinas: agytis@one.lt.

WANTED: Year 2000 Vytautas 100 Litų gold coin. I also want any Lithuanian military collectibles. Phil Winskunas, e-mail: liet@alliancecom.net.

FOR SALE: 20th Century Lithuanian banknotes and coins, books & related stuff. E-mail me for a copy of my latest list of items. Frank Passic: albionfp@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE: Custom Capital Plastic holder for complete regular 14 coin set Y1-14 of Lithuanian 1925, 1936, 1938 coins. \$35 plus \$5 p & h. Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60629.

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VILNIUS CATHEDRAL COIN

(Continued from page 9...)

The obverse features the Vytis emblem and the legends "LIETUVA" and "50 LITŲ." The "LMK" mintmark appears under the front hoofs of the horse.

The reverse shows the Cathedral of Vilnius in the center, and the date "2003" below. The year 2003 commemorates the 250th anniversary of the birth of the designer of the classical facade appearance of the Cathedral. Appropriately, the bottom legend reads, "ARCHITEKTAS LAURYNAS GUCEVIČIUS 1753-1798."

The edge of the coin is inscribed, "ISTORIJS IR ARCHITEKTŪROS PAMINKLAI," meaning "Historical and Architectural Monuments."

LETTERS

I learned very much about Lithuanian coins in your article on the various coin symbols and their origins. I would like more on the history of Lithuanian coins, especially medieval coins. The Knight is a very interesting periodical and informative. Keep up the good work. --Dillon Frost, Palmdale, CA.

Thank you for a very interesting publication. --Richard J. Hamlin, Hacienda Hts, CA

Perhaps you could publish one article each issue on relevant topics from numismatically related countries (i.e. Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Russia), with the idea that it will draw interest from other collectors.--Haralds Robežnieks, San Francisco, CA.

BACK ISSUES UPDATE

For our newer readers, yes, we do have back issues available in Xerox copy form. Sarunas Mingela (see lower left) handles this for us. He asks that the regular subscription price be paid (\$15 per volume) for what you order, and that you also enclose enough for postage and envelope to send them to you. Thanks for your cooperation.